



News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Air Force seeks deeper penetrating 'bunker-busters'

WASHINGTON — In the next few months, Air Force officials expect to decide on a contract to improve the earth-penetrating capability of the 5,000-pound "bunker-buster" bomb. The bomb, the GBU-28, was widely used in Afghanistan. It is capable of penetrating up to 22 feet of earth and concrete before detonating. Military experts say many caves and other targets in Afghanistan were much deeper than that, demonstrating the need for a deeper-penetrating weapon. Air Force officials said they plan to develop and test new models of the weapon's warhead, the BLU-113, by changing its shape, mass and components. At the heart of the desired improvements, are efforts to develop a different kind of explosive that would be much less likely to explode prematurely or detonate accidentally in storage.

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Air Force medevacs work 'round clock



Maj. Jim Sterling (left front), deputy commander of the 438th Expeditionary Aermomedical Evacuation Squadron, Maj. Jay Sweat (right front), critical care air transportation physician, and Capt. Tammy St. Armand, a flight nurse, carry an injured man onto a plane for medical evacuation from Bagram Air Base.

Story & photo by Staff
Sgt. Bobby Yettman
455th EOG Public
Affairs Office

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Business has been relatively slow for Maj. Jim Sterling and his team. They aren't complaining though because slow days for them mean no injuries for Coalition forces in the region.

"We like to fly," said Sterling, deputy squadron commander for the 438th Expeditionary Aermomedical Evacuation Squadron. "But not at the expense of Coalition in-

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Assault hose keeps options open

By Spc. Travis Edwards
Joint Logistics Command
Public Affairs Office

KARSHI-KHANABAD, Uzbekistan — Always planning ahead, the combat logisticians at the Joint Logistics Command, Camp Stronghold Freedom, Uzbekistan, created an alternative way for petroleum products to be transferred from an old Uzbekistan Ministry of Defense fuel farm to a U.S. contingency fuel farm in the event the Ministry of Defense fuel farm loses power or becomes non-mission capable.

"We are looking to the future and finding that the current fuel transfer

"Someday, somewhere, some soldier's life may depend on the firepower that's brought to bear from a combat system with fuel that originated from this pipeline."

— Master Sgt. Brian Shatswell

JLC-Distribution Management Center

system will be inadequate to meet the requirements we think we'll have," said Master Sgt. Brian Shatswell, JLC-Distribution Management Center noncommissioned officer in charge. "Improvements must be made in order to ensure there is a constant flow of petroleum.

"In order to ensure this constant flow of fuel, we installed an assault hose

line system that ties directly into the Uzbek MOD bulk storage but bypasses their antiquated and sometimes unreliable pumping system," he continued. "By using a temporary system called an assault hoseline outfit, we were able to route the flow of

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ries or illness.”

Sterling’s unit, the biggest medevac unit in this theater, is based with the Army Reserve 339th Combat Support Hospital, the largest medical facility in theater. The EAES’ primary mission is to evacuate patients to a place where they can get a higher level of health care. Being at a forward location like Bagram Air Base means they get a lot of patients from “dust offs” or situations where a Black Hawk helicopter goes to a forward area and retrieves a patient for higher level care at the CSH and beyond.

A typical medical crew consists of a flight nurse and two medical technicians, but there are also Critical Care Air Transportation teams, for injuries more severe, which include a physician, a nurse and a respiratory therapist.

Because the unit controls most of the northern area of responsibility, they have two of the four CCAT teams in theater. The other two are at Kandahar.

The airmen in the unit, many of whom are from Pope Air Force Base, N.C., have been in country since mid-September, and have flown 42 patients for treatment from illness to mine injuries and amputations.

When things do slow down, the EAES takes time to inventory their gear, perform routine maintenance and train. The unit noncommissioned officer in charge, Tech. Sgt. Craig Franklin, assists heavily in that aspect.

“I act as the buffer between the Army and the Air Force to make sure daily operations go smoothly,” he said. “I also train all the new people the basics on night-vision goggles and night-time flightline driving.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bobby Yettman, 455th EOG Public Affairs Office
Staff Sgt. Denise Saunders, an aeromedical flight technician with the 438th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron prepares a litter for patient transport during a medevac mission Thursday.

Expediting their processes is helpful for the EAES because they don’t always have a “slow day.”

“The unit averages about four to five flights per week,” Sterling said. “When it rains, it pours. If we have four missions on our status board we’re at about 80 percent of our usual pace.”

Describing one of the EAES’ typical days is difficult because with their mission, there are no typical days, said San Antonio Reservist Staff Sgt. Isaac Gomez, a flight medic augmented with the EAES.

“The majority of our missions happen at night on a busy flightline,” he said. “The aircrews don’t like to stay on the ground long.”

Once a patient has left Bagram Air Base, the EAES can track their progress using a Web-based program called the TRANSCOM Regulating And Command and Control Evacuation System. They can then update the patient’s unit on how he’s doing.

“They all want to know we’re taking care of their troops,” Sterling said.

For the member’s of Sterling’s unit, whose days are as short as 12 hours or as long as 24, the reward comes when they know patients they’ve transported are doing well.

“That lets us know we did the right things,” Sterling said. “That’s why we’re here ... why we’re Air Force medics.”

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petroleum over 300 meters to the U.S. fuel farm.”

The assault hoseline are packaged in containers called flaking boxes. Inside each box is 1,000 feet of four-inch collapsible hoses that can facilitate 350 gallons-per-minute.

A total of 13 flaking boxes make up the complete system. A 350-GPM pumping assembly, a flow control kit, a roadway crossing guard, a hose line suspension kit, a hose line assembly, a hose line packing kit and a repair kit are also included in the package.

“We have dealt with many electrical problems with the local power source, and that alone gave reason to come up with an alternative that ensured a constant flow of fuel for the mission,” said Shatswell. “We have increased our readiness dramatically by placing this hoseline system into operation.”

In the event that the MOD’s pump system was to fail, the fuel foreman turns to the assault hoseline system to take over the mission. A fuel additive injector system is installed between the fuel blivets and the assault hose. Shatswell explained that after injecting the required additives, the fuel is then useable for aviation assets and hooked into the system.

“A steady and reliable flow of fuel is required to meet the needs of U.S. Air Force and Special Operations forces,” said Shatswell. “Someday, somewhere, some soldier’s life may come to depend on the firepower that’s brought to bear from a combat system with fuel that originated from this pipeline. I like to think we’ll make that difference when the time comes.”

HIND SIGHT

1821

Trader William Becknell reaches Santa Fe, N.M., on the route that will become known as the Santa Fe Trail.

1902

A cartoon appears in the *Washington Star*, prompting the Teddy Bear Craze, after President Teddy Roosevelt refused to kill a captive bear tied up for him to shoot during a hunting trip to Mississippi.

1920

Metered mail is born in Stamford, Conn., with the first Pitney Bowes postage meter.

1979

American Airlines is fined \$500,000 for improper DC-10 maintenance.

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Al Qaeda 'big catch' in U.S. custody

WASHINGTON — A senior al Qaeda leader described as “a big catch” is in American custody. Authorities refused to give the name of the al Qaeda leader, but said the capture came in recent weeks and the man is one of the top two dozen al Qaeda terrorists sought by the U.S. government. Word of the arrest comes as the FBI is warning that al Qaeda might be planning “spectacular attacks” in the U.S. that will cause “mass casualties” and “severe damage” to the economy.

Coalition forces strike Iraqi radar site

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Coalition aircraft patrolling the southern “no-fly” zone in Iraq struck an air defense communications facility Friday after the planes came under heavy fire. A U.S. Central Command spokesman, said the coalition strike “came as a result of Iraqi forces firing anti-aircraft (artillery) and surface-to-air missiles.” The Pentagon said the hostile action by Baghdad was a breach of U.N. resolution 1441, Section 8, which states “Iraq shall not take or threaten hostile acts directed against any representative or personnel of the United Nations or ... any member state taking action to uphold any Council resolution.” However, military officials said, it is ultimately up to the United Nations to decide if the action was a “material breach.”

Bagram Air Base MWR movies

The Bagram Air Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff present “Insomnia” tonight at 1530Z at the MWR building.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “Star Wars II,” showing at the same time.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 68F L: 37F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 64F L: 39F
Kandahar:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 77F L: 48F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 79F L: 46F
Kabul:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 68F L: 39F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 64F L: 37F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Rain</i> H: 54F L: 44F	<i>Rain</i> H: 57F L: 44F

*Weather forecast courtesy of Master Sgt. Mark Adams
with the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

FREEDOM WATCH

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180.

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COALITION SPORTSZONE

Foolish acts ruin sports for true fans

Ken Rodriguez

San Antonio Express News

We interrupt this game to bring you a drunken construction worker, leaping from the stands to jump a Canadian Football League player.

We break from the action to bring you two bare-chested loonies, attacking a Major League Baseball coach.

We pause for a moment to bring you a tongue-flapping father at a high school football game, berating a coach on the sidelines.

Pardon the interruptions, but hotheads from Mars are co-opting our games.

These people who lose all sense of propriety in a moment of rage, they are not from our planet. Can't be. They are aliens, extraterrestrials, creatures from another world.

Or, at the very least, earthlings who displayed the IQ of E.T.'s left nostril.

You say E.T. didn't have much of a nostril? My point exactly.

How else to explain the intelligence of the 22-year-old construction worker who jumped B.C. Lions cornerback Eric Carter on Sunday, with seven seconds to play and Winnipeg ahead 30-3?

"I was looking to tackle him, I guess," Jody Remple told the Winnipeg Free Press. "But I'm 5-foot-8, 175 pounds. What was I thinking?"

He wasn't thinking. Remple said he had

been drinking.

Ninety-nine bottles of beer on the wall, ninety-nine bottles of beer.

Sometime after Remple's body went numb, his mind went blank, then Carter and the Lions went mad, pummeling Remple.

"I pretty much deserved everything I got there," Remple said.

He got off with a \$180 fine, some bruises, and lots of airtime on SportsCenter.

He could go all ... the way.

To jail?

Maybe next time.

Next time someone pulls a Remple, I say throw the book at him: disorderly conduct (misdemeanor), disturbing the peace (misdemeanor), disrupting a game without thinking (felony).

If found guilty — and videotape evidence is hard to disprove — throw the convicted non-thinker in the slammer under this order: For every waking hour over the next 30 days, you will watch an endless loop of Texas Rangers games on prison TV.

If that's not the spirit of rehab, I don't know what is.

The spirit of fan lunacy is as old as Babe Ruth. In 1922, Ruth went after a heckling fan. As Ruth stood on a dugout roof, swinging his bat, the fan scampered away.

Almost 60 years later, a fan wielding a black-jack knocked down an umpire at Yankee Sta-

dium, upset with a call at third.

Police said the fan had been drinking. Which is what police say almost every time a lunatic hits the field.

Take Milwaukee Brewers fan Berley Visgar. During a game three years ago, he jumped on the back of Astros outfielder Billy Spiers.

Witnesses said Visgar threatened to A) run onto the field naked or B) run after a player, if someone would pay his fine. Spiers might be the only person sorry Visgar did not choose option A. Police, who dealt with option B, said Visgar reeked of alcohol.

Surprised?

Two years ago, Dodgers catcher Chad Kreuter was surprised when a Cubs fan hit him in the head and stole his hat.

Two coaches chased the thief. Fans threw beer at players. There was a brawl. There were suspensions — 16 players and three coaches for 76 games.

After everyone sobered up, two-thirds of the suspensions were overturned, but no lesson was learned.

It's hard to reason with a six-pack.

Hard to knock sense into light beer.

Hard to get through to alien life forms that are sober.

The game is not about you.

(Editor's note: This commentary is Copyright 2002 of the San Antonio Express-News, and is reprinted with permission.)

Baker takes job trying to turn around hapless Cubs

Dusty Baker takes over baseball's long-time losers less than a month after leading the San Francisco Giants to the World Series.

Baker, a three-time National League Manager of the Year, agreed to a four-year contract, a deal thought to be worth between

\$14 million and \$16 million.

"We're very thrilled to have him," Cubs president Andy MacPhail said. "His record speaks for itself. He's an enormously popular manager with his players. As result, the field of players that would like to play for the Cubs has increased with

tonight's announcement by a large amount."

Baker becomes the second-highest paid manager behind Joe Torre of the New York Yankees.

With the hiring of Baker and Bob Melvin by Seattle earlier in the day, all 10 openings for major league managers have been

filled. Baker is known for his dugout toothpick and his ability to relate to players.

Baker spent 10 seasons with the Giants before departing last week following differences with San Francisco owner Peter Magowan.

(From ESPN.com)

Mets offer Glavine long-awaited three-year deal

NEW YORK — Tom Glavine received his long-awaited offer from the New York Mets on Friday, a three-year deal worth about \$31 million.

The Philadelphia Phillies also have made a three-year offer to the 36-year-old left-hander, a contract worth between \$27 million and \$30 million.

Atlanta, Glavine's only team since he was drafted in 1984, have offered only a one-year deal for about \$9 million.

Gregg Clifton, the agent for the two-time Cy Young Award winner, had been awaiting the offer since his client spoke Thursday with Mets owner Fred Wilpon.

"We were pleased," Clifton said. "It certainly shows sincerity on the part of the Mets. We look forward to continuing our dialogue and finalizing our visit next week."

Glavine most likely will visit the Mets on Thursday, then travel to Philadelphia for the Flyers' NHL game against San Jose that night and visit Friday with the Phillies. Philadelphia already has given free-agent slugger Jim Thome a tour of the construction site of its new ballpark, scheduled to open in 2004.

(From *ESPN.com*)

Solution from Friday's I'm outta here Crossword in the *Freedom Watch*

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

C	P	L	S		O	W	E	S		R	A	C	E	S
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The Legacy Project

The Legacy Project urgently needs to find e-mails that have been written by military personnel in Afghanistan and sent to their loved ones back in the States.

The e-mails can be from any member of the U.S. armed forces who is serving or who has served in Afghanistan. The e-mails can be on any subject, including expressions of love, patriotism, homesickness, determination and encouragement. The project needs any e-mail that will help people on the homefront better understand the thoughts and experiences of those serving in and around Afghanistan.

Please make sure to include information with the e-mail so that the sender or the recipient can be contacted.

Questions and e-mails can be forwarded to warletterproject@aol.com.



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support